

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A rifle, comprising:  
a rifle support;  
a shell propulsion mechanism;  
screws that fix the shell propulsion mechanism to the rifle support; and  
a protective cover ~~configured to cover~~ that covers an area on the rifle support including heads of the screws to protect a user therefrom, the protective cover comprising:  
a main body having a predetermined length and width corresponding to a length and width of the area to be covered on the rifle support; and  
a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses.

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Amendment dated June 9, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of February 19, 2008

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25. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the main body is configured in size and shape such that at least part of a perimeter portion thereof mates with a recess formed on an exterior surface of the rifle support.

26. (Currently Amended) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, further comprising a positioning device ~~configured to position~~ that positions the main body on the rifle support.

27. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the main body is transversally convex towards an exterior thereof and longitudinally elongated.

28. (Currently Amended) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein at least part of ~~the~~an exterior surface of the main body is smooth and can bear graphic printed information on the exterior surface.

29. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the cover comprises a single piece formed by injection molding a plastic material.

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30. (Currently Amended) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the fixing device comprises at least two deformable protrusions ~~configured to~~ that push-fit mate with at least two recesses that receive and fit around the deformable protrusions.

31. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 30, wherein the deformable protrusions have a mushroom shape.

32. (Canceled)